

If I Were a Wolf ...

Subjects

Biology
Graphic Arts
Language Arts
Technology

Objectives

The student will:

- Identify, verbally and in writing, the breeding month for wolves with 100% accuracy.
- Calculate the due date for the pup's birth on the calendar.
- Calculate the date for *Denning* on the calendar.
- Compare the due date to *Denning* on the calendar.
- Calculate the date for *Localization* on the calendar.
- Compare the due date to *Localization* on the calendar.
- Hypothesize, in writing, the reasons for multiple dens.
- Use research to evaluate his/her hypothesis about multiple dens.
- Hypothesize, in writing, why pups can smell when they are born but cannot see or hear.
- Use research to evaluate his/her hypothesis about the sense of smell.
- Calculate the date for weaning on the calendar with 100% accuracy.
- Calculate the dates for the move to the rendezvous site on the calendar with 100% accuracy.
- Compare, in discussion and in writing, wolf socialization to human socialization.
- Calculate 20 weeks for winter coat and permanent teeth on the calendar.
- Hypothesize, in writing, the skills gained by wolves during play.
- Hypothesize, in writing, why the pack teaches pups to hunt the way they do.

Materials

Word/Calendar Template
Computer Lab, if available
If I Were a Wolf worksheet
Butcher paper
Glue, colors, and scissors
Student note sheet – *Hypothesis vs. Facts*
Facts Learning Station Materials

Background for Students

In order to survive, a wolf learns different skills. What do you think a wolf must learn? How long does it take before a wolf can survive on its own? Many human parents make records, take pictures, and keep a calendar of the special events and developments in the lives of their children. What would this look like if we were to do the same for a wolf pup?

Procedure

Note: This activity can be done as printouts or in a computer lab with Word.

Instructor will:

1. Have students assemble a calendar of a wolf's first year of life, either on paper or in the lab.
2. Have students select a date in January as the date that the alpha pair mated. (Instruct them to pick a Monday in order to make the rubric/assessment more efficient.)
3. Have students calculate from January the dates for denning, localization, birth (due date), weaning, winter coat, and permanent teeth and mark them on their calendar.

4. Have students hypothesize, on their Hypothesis vs. Fact sheet the following questions: Why do wolves have multiple dens? Why is smell the only sense that wolf puppies have at birth? What skills do wolf puppies learn from playing? Why do packs teach pups to hunt with dead mice and other small animals.
5. Have students then compare the similarities and differences between growing up a wolf and growing up a human.

Assessment

If I Were a Wolf Rubric

Resource

Yellowstone Wolves – In the Wild. Halfpenny, James C. Riverbend Publishing, 2003.

Standards**National Science Standards**

NS.5-8.1 Science as Inquiry

NS.5-8.3 Life Science

NS.5-8.6 Personal and Social Perspectives

National Technology Standards

NT.K-12.1 Basic Operations and Concepts

NT.K-12.2 Social, Ethical, and Human Issues

NT.K-12.3 Technology Productivity Tools

NT.K-12.4 Technology Communication Tools

National Language Arts Standards

NL-ENG.K-12.1 Reading for Perspective

NL-ENG.K-12.6 Applying Knowledge

NL-ENG.K-12.12 Applying Language Skills